



East Mountain High School

Building Educational Excellence



To: Parents
Date: March 21, 2006
Re: Evacuation of Students In the Event of a Wildfire

Due to the dry conditions and increased danger of a wildfire in the East Mountain area, Representatives of the Bernalillo County office of Emergency Management, the Sandia Ranger District of the Cibola National Forest, the Albuquerque Public Schools, and area private schools have met to discuss evacuation plans for students and staff in the event of a fire.

As a result of that meeting the group came up with the following information to share with parents attending schools in the East Mountains.

In the event of a wildfire evacuation of students in the East Mountains:

- The preferred plan of action will be to relocate students to a shelter outside the fire danger area;
- A second plan will be to keep students at schools and “Shelter in Place” until they can be safely relocated or until the fire danger passes.

If students and school personnel need to be evacuated, APS schools will follow their “Safe Schools Response Plan” and coordinate evacuations with APS Police and other District and governmental agencies.

Please be aware that if a wildfire is moving through our area, chances are the I-40, Highway 14, Highway 337 and Route 66 will be closed. The only vehicles allowed to travel on these highways will be evacuees *leaving* the area and fire emergency personnel going to the scene. *No one except emergency personnel will be allowed to enter the East Mountain area in the event of a fire.*

Students will be taken to a safe location and parents will be notified where and when students may be picked up. Although we realize this will be a very emotional time for parents and students, students will not be released to parents or guardians without the approval of school administrators and emergency management officials. We all want to keep students safe.

If the decision is made to “Shelter in Place,” schools will provide a safe area away from fire, have food and water available for up to 72 hours, and provide security in and around buildings. Transportation will be provide for the students and staff to move them out of the area as soon as it is safe to leave. Again, parents would not be able to pick up their students at school until emergency managers determine it is safe to do so.

Other information for parents:

- Expect telephone lines to be jammed and do not expect to use cellular phones for



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communication. Cell phone circuits are typically the first to become overloaded and inoperable.

- Listen to television and radio reports for the latest information on fires and evacuation procedures. Kkob-AM radio is usually a good source for immediate information.
- Visit the Albuquerque Public Schools web site at: www.aps.edu for the latest information on school evacuations.
- Finally, consider purchasing a battery-powered, all hazard weather radio – about \$40.00 at area retailers including Radio Shack.

Note: There will be a question-and-answer session held on this on Thursday, April 6, at 7 p.m. in the Roosevelt Middle School Gym.

Sincerely,

Danielle Johnston
Principal